

A MOTHER'S TRIALS Marlene Aguilar cries out to the world: No matter what my son did, I love him with all my heart and soul.

METRO / A19
Jun-Jun Binay ousted as majority floor leader of Makati City Council

WORLD / A21
Pope John Paul II gunman says he's messenger from God



SPORTS / A23
Smart Gilas 5 posts third straight win in Dubai

ACROSS / A15
More troops sent as Reds claim win

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Wednesday, January 20, 2010 ★★ 5 sections / Vol. 25 / No. 43 P18

UN: RP trails Tanzania, Zambia in education

By Philip C. Tubeza

THE UNITED NATIONS HAS WARNED that the Philippines is in danger of leaving the poor behind when it comes to their education.

Noting an "absence of decisive political leadership," a major UN report on ed-

RP TRAILS A4

Remonde final word is prayer of thanks

By Christian V. Esguerra, Nikko Dizon and TJ Burgonio

HIS FINAL WORD CAME NOT IN HIS weekly Malacañang press conference but in his newfound hobby, Facebook.

Amid his daunting task as President Macapagal-Arroyo's chief defender, Press Secretary Cerge Remonde was an active member of the popular social networking.

In what proved to be his final status message, he posted a prayer thanking God for "your infinite love that meets our every need and provides all the beautiful and wonderful things we experience in life."

"Release our hearts and minds from fear and worry. Fill us with your peace as we learn to fully trust in your providence. Help us to do all that we are capable of and the rest we entrust unto you. Amen," he wrote at 6:51 p.m. on Monday.

REMONDE A6



FIRST DAY ON THE JOB Remonde would have marked one year as press secretary next month. He was pronounced dead Tuesday at 11:31 a.m. He was 51. The night before he updated his Facebook at 6:51 p.m.

Ivler's ma: I'll take bullets for my son

By Nancy C. Carvajal and Julie M. Aurelio

"I'LL TAKE BULLETS FOR HIM."

This was the reply of the mother of road rage suspect Jason Ivler when asked if, given another chance, she would still hide her son from the law.

Two hours after posting bail, Marlene Aguilar arrived at the Quirino Memorial Medical Center (QMMC) in Quezon City at around 9:30 last night to see her wounded son for the first time.

"Whatever Jason did, whatever they call him—they called him a monster—and even if the world will condemn him, I will love him just the same," Aguilar told the Inquirer.

I'LL TAKE A6

Comelec rules on Erap return on Edsa II day

By Norman Bordadora

DEPOSED PRESIDENT JOSEPH ESTRADA'S hoped-for vindication will either clear an obstacle or hit a speed bump when the Commission on Elections (Comelec) rules today on the disqualification cases filed against his planned rerun for the presidency.

To further mark the day, today is the ninth anniversary of Estrada's departure from Malacañang, after a popular uprising known as Edsa II forced him to step down

COMELEC A6

Miracle survivors: 2 babies pulled out



LOOTERS fight for goods thrown from a destroyed store in Port-au-Prince Monday. Thousands of American troops will help UN peacekeepers keep order on Haiti's increasingly lawless streets. REUTERS

More could be found; looters roam Haiti streets

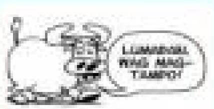
PORT-AU-PRINCE, HAITI—THE STAGgering scope of Haiti's nightmare came into sharper focus on Tuesday as looters slashed at one another with broken bottles and machetes, but one week after the earthquake, rescuers still pulled miracle survivors from the rubble and said more could be found.

With the stench of urine and decomposing bodies hanging over Port-au-Prince, rescuers pulled out two babies from ruined buildings in this quake-ravaged land, prompting the mother of one of the babies to exclaim that truly there is a God.

Nurses at Port-au-Prince's General Hospital clapped heartily as they welcomed a baby girl retrieved from the ruins of her destroyed home.

The child, believed to be just 18 months old, was covered with dust but otherwise appeared healthy. No one knew her name and rescuers believe her family

FRANCE/ A17



Kapatiran bet scores organizers for snub

By Jerome Aning

MANY ARE CALLED, FEW SHOW UP—but this one often seems to be left out.

The youngest presidential candidate in

KAPATIRAN A6

Bodies of 2 Filipinos found in rubble; 4 still missing

By Cynthia D. Balana and Marlon Ramos in Manila, and Julie S. Alipala Inquirer Mindanao

THE NATION YESTERDAY JOINED TWO Filipino mothers in their grief over the deaths of a son and a daughter in quake-ravaged Haiti.

Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo ordered the Philippine flag at the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) flown at half-staff in mourning for Pearly Panangui and Jerome Yap whose bodies were pulled out from the rubble nearly a week after a powerful quake devastated the impoverished Caribbean nation.

In Zamboanga City, Panangui's mother, Manaria, said her daughter died a hero.

"She's a hero not only for us but for the Filipino people. That was what she wanted.

BODIES A17



ALL HANDS ON DECK Two members of the Filipino peacekeeping troops attend to injured Haitian children in one of the makeshift clinics that United Nations rescue workers set up in Port-au-Prince.

PHOTO COURTESY OF AFP PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE

Villar, allies no-shows at Senate; Enrile mad

By Christine O. Avendaño

FOR LACK OF QUORUM, THE SENATE YESterday failed to take up the draft committee report that seeks the censure of Sen. Manuel Villar Jr. for his alleged involvement in the double funding of the C-5 road project.

Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile said the absence of 13 senators, including Villar and most of his allies, at the session showed there was an effort to prevent the chamber from taking up the ethics case against the senator, who is running for president under the Nacionalista Party.

A senator, who asked not to be identified due to the sensitivity of the matter, said yesterday's "boycott" was part not only of the effort to kill the committee report but also of "ongoing attempts to unseat Senate President Enrile" and replace him with Sen. Edgardo Angara.

Sen. Ana Consuelo "Jamby" Madrigal, who was the complainant in the ethics case against Villar, said she would file within the month a plunder case against him with the Office of the Ombudsman.

VILLAR A6

Second FrontPage

Witness vs Ampatuan recants

A MAGUINDANAO POLICEMAN WHO HAD POINTED TO ANDAL Ampatuan Jr. as the leader of the Maguindanao massacre has recanted and now says it was the prosecution's star witness who had led the armed men that stopped the convoy of the Mangudadatus before they were shot to death.

'Signed under duress'

Family ties

Added respondents

Slain newsmen's kin file raps vs AFP officers

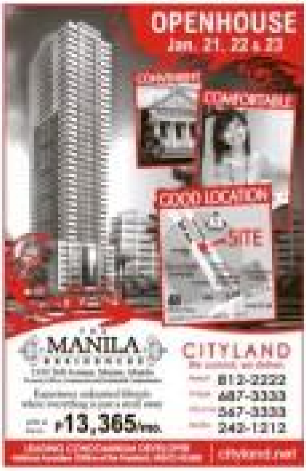
Ella D. Nolasco; 86





'Winning' govs will have to wait









PIRACY IN SOMALIA

16 RP sailors freed as pirates release tanker



SC asks: Spare us from politics

Marina chief's travels hit



Corrections

GMA invites investors to Coral Triangle

Alternative fishing technology

Officials, reporters, Cebuanos in mourning

Sad day for Cebuanos

Remonde's last word is a prayer; 51; 'special honors' set

Cardiac arrest

Hypertension, diabetes

Limcaoco acting press secretary

'Cool cat'

Remonde: From Argao, Cebu, to Malacañang

Stressful job

Endlessly working

Prayers, ballroom dancing

Poetry reading

RP trails Tanzania, Zambia in education, UN report says

RP could miss its goal

Low investment

Deeply marginalized

Deep fault lines

The sound of howitzers

Shortages

The Daily Gospel

Wednesday, January 20, 2010

House helpless vs lazy solons, says Nograles

Villar, allies no-shows at Senate; Enrile mad

Attendance

Without excuse

Official business

Cancellation of privilege

Courts should go after Villar

'I'll take bullets for him,' says Marlene after posting bail

Drug, paraffin tests

Possible transfer

Comelec rules on Erap return comeback bid on Edsa II day

Separate petitions

Will appeal

WHAT WENT BEFORE: Edsa II

Thanksgiving Mass

Kapatiran bet scores debate organizers for not inviting him

Why no invites

List cut for 'substance'

Also ignored in Cebu

SC junks Migrante's party-list bid

Newly accredited

No Courage







NY court takes hold of $35-M Marcos deposits

PW execs want raps dismissed









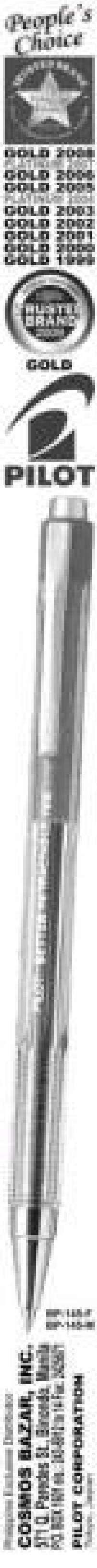












Ganito Tayo Noon

THE ECONOMY

BETTER LIVES

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

BETTER LIVES

PEACE & ORDER

BETTER LIVES

• REAL NUMBERS BETTER LIVES •

Ganito Tayo NGAYON

INFRASTRUCTURE

BETTER LIVES

MORE TO COME

JOBS

BETTER LIVES

AGRICULTURE

BETTER LIVES

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

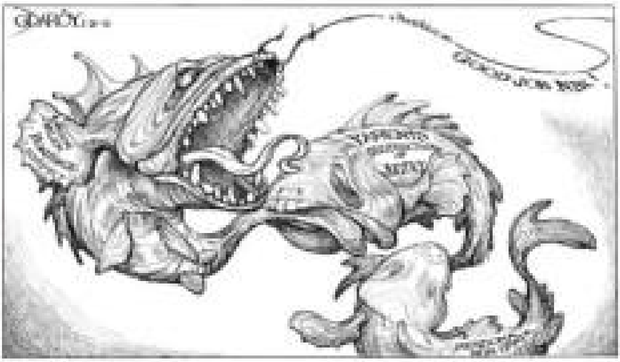
OPINION

The fugitive

EDITORIAL

Unintended harm

FOREIGN COMMENT



Miriam's response to disqualification petition

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

Interesting times

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

A damning report

ANALYSIS



Amando Doronila

Why TB persists

PINOY KASI



Michael L. Tan

Women for the Senate

AT LARGE



Rina Jimenez-David

A forgotten war

LOOKING BACK



Ambeth R. Ocampo

DA outlets keep cheaper food within masses' reach

LETTERS

Noy, Mar deserve to invoke parents' legacies







Supreme Court of the Philippines

Judicial and Bar Council

Manila

ANNOUNCEMENT

Across the NATION

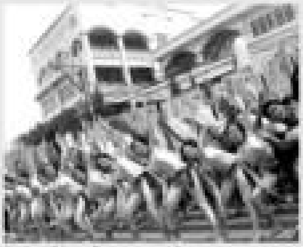
Assistant Editor Tony Bergonia

More troops sent as Reds claim win

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.

ILOILO CITY—THE PHILIPPINE ARMY HAS DEployed more troops to Western Visayas, just months before the June 2010 deadline set by President Macapagal-Arroyo for the military to defeat communist rebels.

'Lion City' roars back to life after storms



STUDENTS from different schools perform during an eco-dancing competition at the 10th Sikhayan Festival in Sta. Rosa City on Jan. 18.

After the floods

Industry growth

Farmers headed for Malacanang enter Metro

'We also have our freedom of expression ...'



NEWSBRIEFS

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO

Caretaker kills 3

EVENT

Zabala Jr.; 81

DAGUPAN CITY

4 dead in car crash

INQUIRER Northern Luzon





In Cordillera, school papers bring news to remote villages

CAMPUS PAPERS ARE BRINGING THE NEWS to the Cordillera's remote villages, filling in the information void from broadsheets and tabloids that come in trickles or late a day or two.

> Today's school papers have become community papers since they also tackle issues that are important to the people

Indigenous practices

Attractive layout





Miracle survivors: 2 babies pulled out

200,000 feared dead

Sparing the young

'Jaws of life'



28 survivors



Fighting over rum, beer

$10-B aid needed

Clinton and Chelsea

Bodies of 2 Filipinos found in rubble; 4 still missing





28 Pinoys found safe

UN officials also killed

Still trapped

Fabian and Calican

Criminology graduate



The Gentri Heights

The good life just got better

Governor's Drive, Cavite



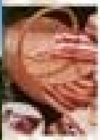
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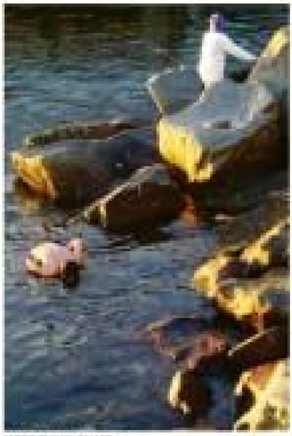
SUNTRUST

Aplus Metro
Editor Abelardo S. Ulanday

DID YOU KNOW

THE SQUARE in front of Manila Cathedral used to be called Plaza de Armas. In the 1700s, bullfights were held in the plaza.
—Cyril L. Bocobo, Inquirer Research

Binay son ousted in council shakeup



HERE FISHY, FISHY ... Two men try their luck at catching fish at the breakwater at Manila's South Harbor. One does it the traditional way using a rod while the other hopes to literally get his hands on the elusive creatures.

Vice Mayor Mercado delivers coup de grace

By Niña Calleja

MAKATI CITY Councilor Jejomar Binay and eight other legislators walked out of the city council session on Tuesday amid moves by Vice Mayor Ernesto Mercado and the latter's allies to strip him of his chairmanship of two committees.

"Binababoy n'yo ang session (You are making a mockery of the session)," Binay told Metro as he and his allies as he left.

Mercado and his companions then pushed through with removing Binay as head of two council committees, and subsequently as majority head.

Binay, only son of Makati City Mayor Jejomar Binay, questioned the legality of the reorganization, particularly the tie-breaking vote cast by Mercado.

"The presiding officer is not a member of the City Council. He may cast a vote to break a tie on matters that involve ordinances and resolutions but not on an issue that is the sole concern of elected councilors," said the younger Binay.

But Mercado said he had the legal right to vote on the issue, citing a provision in the local government code that allows the vice mayor to act as the tie breaker in cases of deadlock.

Before the walkout, Mercado proposed reorganization of the committees on rules and education, both of which were being held by Binay.

When the votes were tied at nine all, Mercado voted in favor of the reorganization.

Binay was then replaced by Councilor Elias Tolentino as chair of the committee on rules and by Councilor Salvador Pangilinan in the committee on education.

Mercado said Binay had to be removed as majority floor leader claiming that the councilor was using his positions to advance his political goals.

"If they have complaints, file them before the DILG (Department of the Interior and Local Government)," Mercado said.

Mercado and Binay were allies who had a falling out when both decided to run for mayor in Makati in May.

1,000 Caloocan residents get boost in life

OPPORTUNITIES have just opened up for more than 1,000 residents of Caloocan City who recently completed various courses that equipped them with skills to get jobs or manage their own business. A total of 1,114 residents finished courses in reflexology, computer hardware, basic computer operations, dressmaking, beauty care, and cell phone repair. They spent from two to six months to complete the free educational program which was a joint project of Caloocan city's Labor and Industrial Relations Office and the Technical Education Skills Development Authority (Tesda). Most of the graduates were out-of-school youth.

Dennis T. Rufo-Natividad

Tiñga says drug case dismissal a downer

By Niña Calleja

TAGUIG MAYOR FREDDIE TIÑGA expressed disappointment yesterday over the court's dismissal of a drug case against three alleged drug pushers arrested in his city.

"We share PDEA's (Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency) concern over this issue, as we have also seen many of our drug arrests set free because of legal technicalities. We stand by our position that the law applies to everyone whoever they are," Tiñga said in a statement.

On Monday, PDEA lawyers filed a motion asking Judge Raul Bautista of the Taguig Regional Trial Court Branch 267 to reconsider the dismissal of the case against Allan Carlos, Sr., Alberto—all surnamed Tiñga.

Tiñga said the dismissal was a major blow to the campaign against illegal drugs.

He added that illegal drug users and pushers should face the full extent of the law, regardless of who they were.

"There is no special treatment. Arrests have been made and continue to be made, and the guilty placed behind bars—including anyone who happens to bear my last name," Tiñga said.

The mayor laments that the dismissal was now being used against him.

"The timing of this issue is highly suspect though, given its proximity to the elections. Our political adversaries have time and again attempted to tie us to this issue despite our continued efforts against the drug menace," Tiñga said.

He assured the PDEA of the city's full support in winning the war against illegal drugs.

PhilPost to get wired, to hasten remittances

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE MONEY REMITTANCE system of the Philippine Postal Corp. may finally go electronic, enabling the state firm to offer the same convenience that private money forwarders do in just about a fourth of the fees charged.

This is made possible with a P1-billion loan that the Social Security System is extending PhilPost through a partnership related to the unified multi-purpose identification (UMID) system.

Top officials of PhilPost and SSS yesterday inked a pact that widens the coverage of the UMID system.

Before the partnership, the planned UMID covered only four agencies, providing a single ID card for members of the SSS, Government Service Insurance System, Philippine Health Insurance Corp. (PhilHealth) and the Home Development Mutual Fund.

SSS is the lead agency in the implementation of the UMID project, which was spelled out in Executive Order No. 420 that was issued in 2005.

The UMID project is supposed to "enhance the integrity" of state-issued ID cards, ease government transactions, cut costs and minimize redundant databases.

Romulo L. Neri, SSS president and chief executive, said the partnership "widens the scope of the UMID card and also paves the way for electronic remittance services for overseas workers through the PhilPost" network, Neri said.

He added that when the UMID system rolled out, SSS members would be able to get payments for pensions, loans and benefits through PhilPost's nationwide web of some 2,200 post offices.

Lim: Break up illegal terminals



Animals get lonely, too—Peta

ELECTION GUN BAN

Pasig top cop eyes loose firearms

Bishops urge Pinoys to help Haiti victims

Milk powder downs pupils in QC school

The WORLD

WORLDBRIEFS

Torching of Nigerian church sets off riot

Storms in Mideast kill British tourist, 6 others

Prince William visits Australia

Malaysia says US terror warning 'misleading'



AGCA

Pope gunman claims he's Christ eternal

ANKARA—THE TURKISH MAN who shot Pope John Paul II nearly 29 years ago emerged from prison and declared himself a messenger from God, then spent his first night of freedom in a luxury hotel room.

UN report: Afghans pay $2.5B in bribes

LONDON—CORRUPTION COSTS AFGHANS $2.5 billion a year, a United Nations agency said on Tuesday, with the scale of bribery matching Afghanistan's opium trade.

Iran opposition urges fresh protests

Beautiful Beginnings at The Grove



L-R: Mr. Manolo Lopez, Mrs. Marlene Lopez, Mrs. Connie Lopez and Mr. Oscar Lopez

Ortigas' transformation from gray to green has begun. The Grove by Rockwell, being a resort-themed community, already looks worlds apart from the rest of the city. Anyone who drives by The Grove can already see its vast progress in achieving Rockwell Land's vision. The structures at The Community Center are distinct and striking, and bear the famous aesthetics of Rockwell.

Welcoming you at The Community Center are pavilions that played host to several events since its launch last December. It's been the ideal venue for various celebrations and functions, with its tropical contemporary design flexible enough for every event organizer's requirements. Guests can also lounge at the Information Center, which houses The Grove's model unit.

Alice Eife, Arlee de Guzman and Butch Valdes, Rockwell Center's trusted designers, have once again upped the ante on building model units. The model unit is a stunning vignette of what The Grove will soon be like – the contemporary harmonizing with an overwhelmingly green landscape. The excitement over the Ortigas project has since been just as overwhelming, with 80% of units in Towers A and B sold to-date.

December 5th marked the opening and inauguration of The Grove Community Center. Rockwell Land President Nestor "Tong" Padilla was on hand to welcome esteemed guests, including Manolo Lopez and wife Marlene, Oscar Lopez and wife Connie, who were all in attendance for this milestone in Rockwell's expansion beyond Makati.

Guests came suitably dressed in Miami-themed resort wear and were serenaded by French-Moroccan singers and [illegible]. Food and drinks flowed well into the evening, with hundreds of guests partying in the exquisite surroundings, against the majestic metropolitan sky. It was the perfect prelude to more wonderful changes that await Ortigas.



L-R: Mr. Jaime Santiago, Ms. Alice Eife, Mrs. Nenuca Padilla, Mrs. Marlene Lopez and Mr. Mark Lopez



L-R: Mr. Buddy Saguerra, Mr. Nestor Padilla, Mr. Eugenio Santiago, Engineer Henry Antonio, Mr. Rudy Santos and Mr. Gabby Padilla

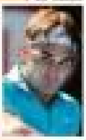


L-R: Architect Arlee De Guzman, Mr. Nestor Padilla, Architect Joe Rodriguez (PRSP), Architect Bonnie Bilbao (PRSP) and Mrs. Carol Rodriguez

SPORTS

Editor Teddyvic S. Melendres
Assistant Editor Francis T.J. Ochoa

WHAT'S INSIDE
■ Federer gets past first round foe /A24





GINEBRA'S Cyrus Baguio is fouled by Burger King's JR Quinahan in Sunday's game won by the Gin Kings, 122-104.

Anxious Aces try again to nail semifinal berth

3rd consecutive Corus draw for Wesley



So: Plays black again in fourth round.

Smart Gilas bucks bum calls, rough play, trips UAE squad



SCUAA KICKOFF



NBA Finals rematch: Lakers finish strong, trip Magic

Federer gets past first-round foe

Williams sisters oust Australian Open rivals



Will PBA uphold TNT victory?

IN HUDDLE

It'll be over in five or six rounds, says Nietes

PUP, RTU, Earist open SCUAA with victories

Time to shine Down Under

HEART, SOUL, SPORTS

Sta. Lucia Cup stakes pricey Lexus

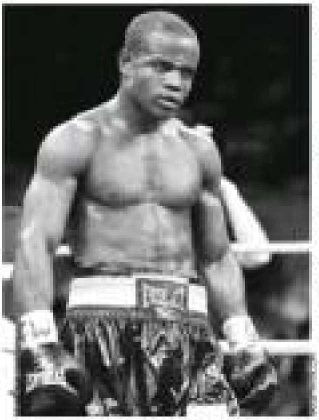
SPORTSWATCH

Berto abandons Mosley fight

Chess seeds head Milo team

SJC derby fires off Monday

Yulo hosts Pasay event



CLOTTEY'S BOAST

'I've got goods to beat Manny'

Sabal, Fetalvero headline Condura 42K run

By Cedelf P. Tupas

UAAP WARS

UP, Ateneo booters triumph

World Slasher derby resumes elims today



Youth Olympics slots for NABC aces

By Cedelf P. Tupas

UFL Ready for Action as First and Second Divisions are Settled

Organize your Luck at Ace Hardware



Keep your tools always organized with ACE Hardware's toolbox

In the East, the practice of cleaning out homes and office spaces for the New Year has its roots in the Chinese practice of feng shui. It is believed that revitalizing and organizing your life creates harmony and good energy.

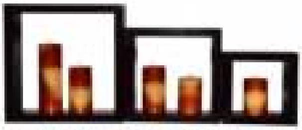
Clutter, whether it be physical, emotional, or spiritual - creates tired energy. And by de-cluttering your home, you push away bad energy and make space for new energy to enter.

You keep energy flowing smoothly throughout your home by clearing your clutter and organizing your space with storage solutions from ACE Hardware, the Helpful Place.

There are innovative shelving systems, shelves, and storage bins for your clothes, shoes, and papers that are not only decorative and functional, but bring about a lucky vibe. And while shopping at ACE Hardware and ACE Builders stores, check out its Neat, Clean, and Organized promotion, and enjoy great savings on different solutions until January 31, [illegible]. You can also earn rewards points when you use your SM Advantage Card, Prestige Cards, as well as your BDO Rewards Cards.

ACE Hardware branches are located at SM Makati, SM Cubao, SM Hypermarket in Makati, and in SM Supermalls nationwide. ACE Builders are located at SM City North EDSA, SM City Fairview and SM City Pampanga.

You can also shop online at www.acehardware.ph



Put things in order with these 3 square wooden shelf



This wooden shelf can efficiently organize office & leisure equipments



Zooey Lite Universal Cabinet is ideal use for office, living room, bedroom and kitchen



This Apollo shoe cabinet you'll keep your shoes clean and organized



This Quick Shelf is a heavy duty storage system for your home, office, or warehouse. Available in blue, yellow, red, white, silver and green.



This Bonsai Corridor is perfect for displaying decorations



You can store your personal stuff in these Keyway storage boxes

BUSINESS

RP to issue $500-M samurai bonds in February

CURRENCIES

Proceeds to help finance burgeoning budget gap

THE PHILIPPINES WILL ISSUE samurai bonds worth around $500 million in the third week of February to finance a record budget deficit this year, Finance Secretary Margarito Teves said yesterday.

IN THIS ISSUE

Gov't awards Batangas container port deal to ATI

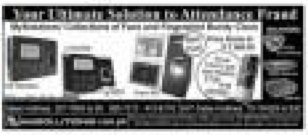
Sees $125M in proceeds over 25 years

Local stocks end slightly lower in cautious trading

Ayala electronics unit to list 1.14B shares

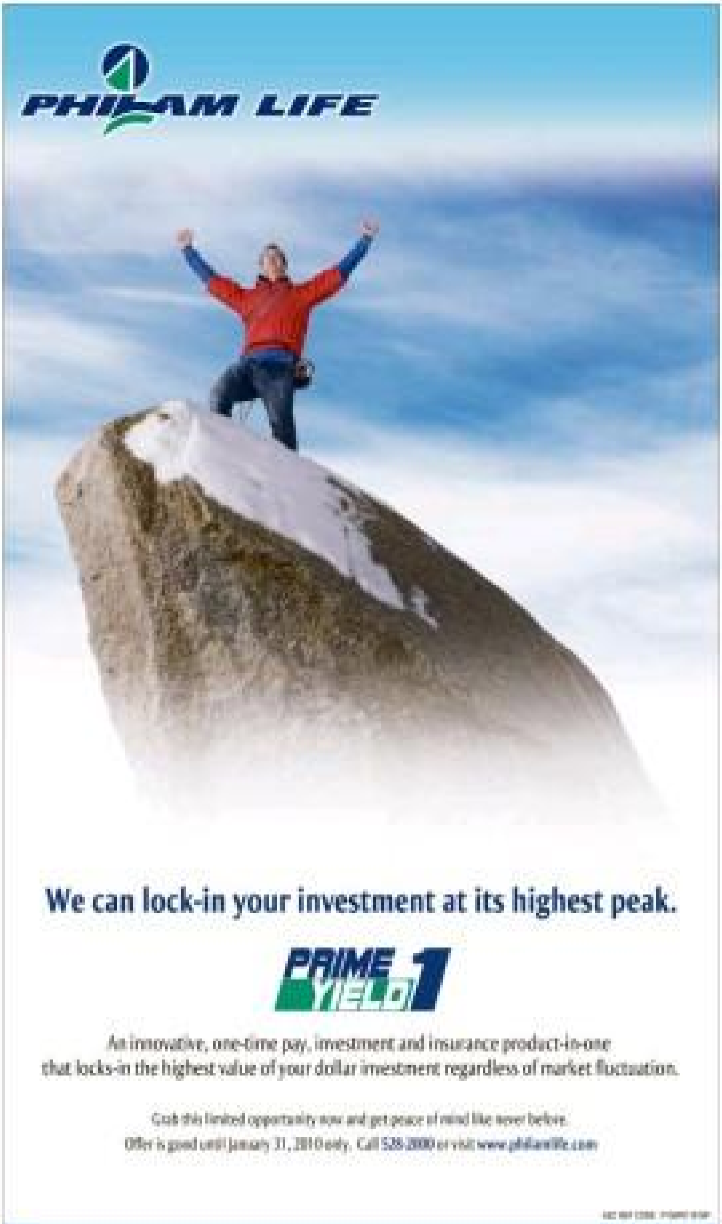
Mining breakthrough

Biz Buzz
By the staff









RP to issue . . .

Shell asks Palace, DOF to help settle row with BOC

Supply disruption feared

PPA earmarks ₱8B for port expansion in '10

Toyota bullish on RP market

Brazil jetmaker names RP agent

Peza OKs 25-hectare biofuels ecozone in Cavite

Treasury bond rates rise to 6.23%, up 33.9 bps

Investors concerned over widening budget deficit

Globe opens latest $70-M fiber optic cable system

BUSINESS

Asia shares may reach record levels in 2010

Oil prices to climb back to $100/barrel

SMEs urged to tap FTA potential

Grid agency provides more power to Clark

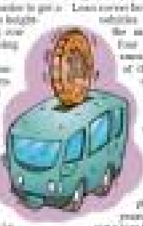
BHP Billiton may get chunk of RP gas field

MOTORING



Selling the dream to own a car

[illegible]







INQUIRER Compiled by Charles E. Buban

Car Buyer's Guide

SO you've got your dream all firmed up. It's that brand or nothing. But wait, this Buyer's Guide might just help you hold on before making that cheque or seals of cash. Here's the continuation of our research on the available models up for grabs.

Second part of a series

'Above' Sedans	Price	Engine		Transmission / Configuration		Torque (Nm) / Drivetrain			Selling points
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Compact Sedans									
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Luxury Compact Sedan									
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Detroit delights

Hot hatches and hybrids dominate NAIAS

By Alvin Uy

WHILE CORPORATE AMERICA is slowly showing signs of recovery (or stability, depends on which business paper you are reading), the show goes on for Detroit as 2010 saw the opening of the first major international auto show this year. Now called the North American International Auto Show (NAIAS), we feature some of the significant vehicles that were launched during the show.



Toyota FT-CH hybrid concept

Toyota introduced its new hybrid concept, the FT-CH, a design that came out of its European Design and Development Center in France. It is a compact car created to be an entry level hybrid that promises to be priced much lower than the Prius. Using Toyota's Synergy hybrid system, it is similar to that used in the Prius, which can drive the car under electric power at low speeds. The CH is the name stands for compact hybrid.



Audi e-tron II

Last year, Audi showed off its e-tron electric car concept at the Frankfurt auto show. But unlike the e-tron shown in Frankfurt, the Detroit show car has two motors, powering each rear wheel. Torque is vectored from wheel to wheel dynamically to counter understeer and oversteer while cornering. Although the motors give the car about 204 horsepower and 1,593 pound-feet of torque, it results in acceleration from zero to 100 kph in just 5.9 seconds. With its lithium ion battery, estimated range is 250 km. The earlier e-tron looked like an R8, this new version has styling queues and dimensions closer to the TT.

BMW Concept ActiveE



Based on the 1-series platform, its electric powertrain uses lithium ion batteries under the hood and over the rear axle to give the car a 50-50 weight balance. Its range is estimated at 100 miles, and acceleration from zero to 100 kph in 9.0 seconds. BMW intends to build a fleet of these cars and lease them to private individuals to test the feasibility of an electric car living a 24-hour cycle, the batteries recharge in 4.5 hours. The ActiveE connects to a smartphone, letting the owner see current charge level while away from the car.

BYD e6

BYD, China's biggest cellphone battery company launches the e6 electric car. Chi Wenming, Deputy General General, People's Republic of China introduces BYD and its e6 electric car to the press. This little known company came out to the global business spotlight when Warren Buffett started investing in this company. Looks like Buffett has not only seen the car of the future, he seems to be on the dole of it now. With a range of 330km and promises of a very competitive price, it looks like another financial windfall for America's famous billionaire.



Honda hybrid CR-Z



This year's show saw Honda debuted its production version of the hybrid CR-Z. Resembling the CRX of the 1980s, the Honda CR-Z hybrid's 1.5-liter, four-cylinder engine is supplemented with a 10 kilowatt electric motor.

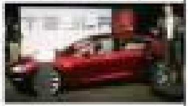
Subaru Tourer Hybrid

Tom Doll, Executive Vice President, Chief Operating Officer, Subaru of America Inc. showed off its Tourer Hybrid Concept to the press. The company's hybrid Tourer concept is a two-door, four-seater sedan that has a 2-liter 4-cylinder engine mated with two sets of electric motors, one set for the front wheels and one for the rear. The company said the two sets of motors are key to its strategy of offering all-wheel drive in all its vehicles.



Tesla Model S

Despite its low-key car niche brand status, Tesla's Model S could very well be the next step towards the large American mainstream market. Prominently displayed at Tesla's booth was the new Model S sedan, a car it positioned to enter a larger market segment unlike the Tesla Roadster. The Model S goes to 100kph in 5.6 seconds and has a range of 480 km. These impressive numbers could be Tesla's ticket to ride. Although there were no final dates disclosed yet, production is set for next year.



Hot Hatches and open tops

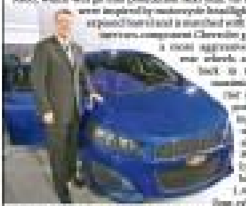
The all-new Ford Focus



Even with a major update on the Ford Mustang, all eyes were on Ford as it unveiled its new Ford Focus with production set to begin late 2010 and introduction to the US market in early 2011. It comes with a 5-door hatchback and a 4-door sedan version as well. Ford Executive Chair Bill Ford said fuel economy is the most important new feature of the Ford Focus. With a winning combination of stunning looks and fuel-efficient engine, it wouldn't be surprising if this will also be well-accepted in the Asian markets.

Chevrolet Aveo RS

While its previous generation sibling didn't get too many standouts, the new one really looks hot. The all-new Chevrolet Aveo RS is a hot hatchback based on the next generation Aveo, which will go into production next year. Its headlights were inspired by motorcycle headlights with an exposed bezel and is matched with the signature two-tier, component Chevrolet grille. With a more aggressive look, its rear wheels are set far back in the body, maximizing interior space and possibly giving better maneuverability. Powered by a turbocharged 1.4-liter four-cylinder engine, it is mated to a six-speed manual. James Campbell, General Manager of Chevrolet announced during the press briefing that "I do think we have a great opportunity to begin to appeal to [younger] consumers." Judging from the car's looks and reactions from the visitors, he is spot on.





MINI Beachcomber Concept car

The Beachcomber concept uses the running gear of the upcoming MINI Countryman SUV and generates the same open-top appeal reminiscent of the Mini Moke vintage years briefly remembered in TV shows like "The Prisoner." Riding in the nattie hot image, MINI launched the car with five dancing surfers and was driven on stage by a performer wearing a shark mask, with a seashell-like rim stuck in his rubber fake shark jaws.

Selling the dream. . .

From page B1

The interest charged on the first year, however, is less than 10 percent, so if you take out a loan of P500,000, you will repay a maximum of P110,000 at the end of the year. The longer the repayment period, the higher the interest payment so try to pay the loan as early as possible.

The rates change often, so compare rates and terms first before making the commitment. After all, you will be stuck with the loan for as long as six years.

With the car market expected to grow at a faster pace this year, consumer banks are looking at a better year ahead for auto loans, since the majority of cars bought in the market are financed through a loan. Not everybody can afford to pay in cash. Last year was already good as car sales grew at a pace faster than expected, and PS Bank's Garcia said the growth should continue this year with the projected improvement in the economy.

With fears of the economy grinding to a halt dissipating, Filipinos are in the mood to borrow again and banks are not as apprehensive about lending funds. These should make for a good year for consumer banks.

And crucial to getting a slice of the booming market is closer ties with the car dealers since they are almost always the first to get to know the customers.

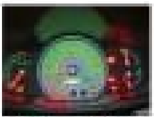
As BPI Family bank president Alfonso Salcedo said earlier, banks these days are no longer solely about lending money but are about selling the dream to those who can.

That's a dream that most Filipinos want to turn into a four-wheeled reality.



The small pleasures, and pressures, of the i10 and Picanto





Priced just within the P500,000 to P600,000 range, the two offer almost the same engine performance, ride characteristics, and corporate Korean origins, even

Fuel estimates

The cost of ownership

Fuel efficiency estimates

Euro-inspired design

The verdict

SPECIFICATIONS





What you'll spend for after the purchase

Kia Picanto MT 1.1

Hyundai i10 1.1 AT



Sport Runner variant of Innova launched

Mazda CX-7 stands out

On the Road
Aida Sevilla-Mendoza





THE SHAPELY 2010 MAZDA CX-7

COMPARED TO THE MAZDA TRIbute, which is also a compact, front-wheel-drive, 5-seater crossover sport utility vehicle sold by Ford Group Philippines (FGP), the Mazda CX-7 looks sharper, shapelier and more cutting-edge. At P1.499 million, the CX-7 costs about P100,000 less than the Tribute.

With a windshield slanted at a rakish angle, front wheels pushed forward, large air inlets on the front bumper, bulging rear wheel arches, a rear spoiler and dual exhaust tailpipes, the Mazda CX-7 looks as if it would rather race than transport a family or passengers.

In favor

Given all these, could it be that FGP is phasing out the boxy, aging Tribute in favor of the svelte CX-7, which is a smaller version of the Mazda CX-9? While the latter competes with the similarly-priced Hyundai Vera Cruz and Mitsubishi Pajero in the midsize SUV segment, the car-based CX-7 does not face any competition since the other SUV models of similar size—the Ford Everest, Toyota Fortuner, Mitsubishi Montero Sport and Isuzu Alterra—are truck-based 7-seaters powered by diesel engines.

Neither can you field the CX-7 against the Ford Escape, Honda CR-V, Toyota RAV4 and Nissan X-Trail because these are comparatively smaller crossover SUVs. So you may be led to the conclusion that the CX-7, which runs on the same 2.5-liter, 4-in-line, 16-valve engine as the Mazda6 sedan, stands out in its class because it is a Mazda6 on steroids...nothing more, nothing less.

Attributes

But that's not a valid conclusion, given all the attributes of the CX-7. It is [illegible] and as comfy as a mid-size sedan like the Mazda6, offers sporty performance worthy of Mazda's "Zoom-zoom" tagline, has a stylish, high-quality interior and safety features that are well above the minimum standard.



MOVING [illegible] boxy-shaped [illegible] SUV.

On the other hand, if you were to compare the performance of the 2010 CX-7 with the previous model CX-7 that is equipped with a more powerful turbocharged engine, you would conclude that the new CX-7 is more than a bit underpowered. But since the turbocharged CX-7 was never sold here, there is no way to compare.

Spirit

That said, driving the 2010 CX-7 is like driving a solid family wagon with the spirit of a sports car. The acceleration may not be exactly exhilarating, but the CX-7 still delivers an adequate serving of Mazda zoom-zoom, plus steering that provides a feel of the road. Only a 5-speed automatic transmission with manual shift mode is available. Fuel consumption is rated at 8.4 kilometers per liter in the city, 11.7 km/ liter on the highway.

The ride quality is firm and still like a sports sedan's but not too uncomfortable with leather seats that are supportive and enough head and leg room for the driver and front passengers. The CX-7 is perfect for city driving as it is easy to maneuver in bumper-to-bumper traffic while on the highway it runs smoothly and quietly with little road noise intruding into the cabin. The MacPherson strut front suspension and multi-link rear arrangement with anti-roll bars fore and aft contribute to the sporty handling.

Theme

Inside, high-quality materials and stylish gauges enhance the feel of luxury. The color theme of the interior is black with splashes of chrome trim to brighten the dash, in the center of which is a multi-information display and a 6-disc CD changer. Cruise control and audio control buttons are found on the tilt/ telescopic steering wheel.



STYLISH CX-7 [illegible] cockpit

Safety features like front airbags, front side-support airbags, curtain airbags, ABS with EBD and Brake Assist, Dynamic Stability Control and Traction Control are standard equipment. The disc brakes on the 17-inch aluminum alloy wheels are all ventilated, not just the front ones.

Bottom line, the refreshed 2010 Mazda CX-7 is a practical, functional family wagon with cool, avant-garde SUV styling, some sporty crossover driveability and handling, more than adequate space for cargo and five occupants and a complete array of safety features. It stands out because it doesn't really belong to any particular segment of the motor vehicle market and is a distilled version of the mighty CX-9, if not a Mazda6 on steroids.

TODAY'S BUSINESS SYNOPSIS: "The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated."—Gandhi

Mitsubishi ends banner year with 32.5% growth

AFTER THE LOCAL AUTOMOTIVE INDUSTRY defied threats of a slump, Mitsubishi Motors Philippines (MMPC) closed 2009 with sales of 22,297 units, accounting for an impressive 32.5% growth compared to its 2008 sales of 17,339 units.

With this sales performance, MMPC also managed to improve its market share from 14% in 2008 to 17.4% in 2009, to maintain its strong No. 2 position in the industry.

MMPC also registered growth in all segments for the first quarter. Lancer and Galant sales totaled to 1,363 units for a slight 3% growth in the passenger car segment.

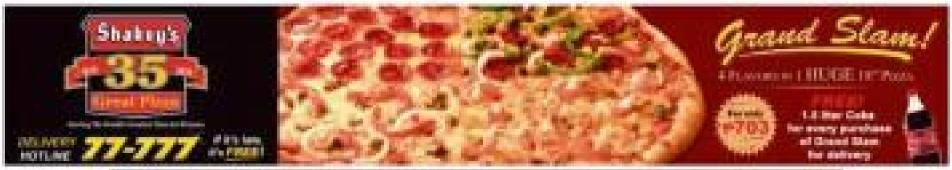
In the light commercial vehicle segment, total growth registered was 36% as MMPC sold a total of 20,999 light commercial vehicles versus 15,382 units sold in 2008.

In the truck and bus segment, MMPC sold a total of 728 units, an increase of 20%.

MMPC credits this performance to the strong sales of its new Montero Sport, Adventure, Strada pickups and L300 models. Both Adventure and L300 models continue to attract private and government fleet, as well as small to medium scale entrepreneurs, and OFWs and their dependents. The Adventure and L300 continue to be significant due to their very low cost operation and maintenance and reliable performance of its new Euro-2 compliant 4D56 engine.

"Our objective for this year is to sell 28,000 or a 30% growth from our 2009 performance," Froilan Dytianquin, Assistant Vice President for Marketing Services said. "Our positive growth projection will be supported by our refreshed vehicle lineup."

LIFESTYLE Parenting



How kendo strengthens a child's body and mind

K[illegible]

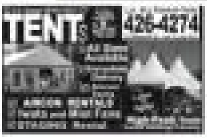


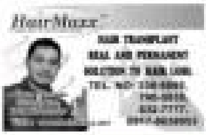
I recently enrolled my nine-year-old godson and, after a few lessons, he says it's better than soccer

[illegible]

Manners

[illegible]







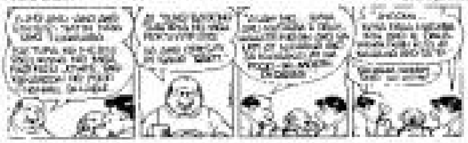
GARFIELD — By Jim Davis



A. LIPIN — By Jess Abrera



PUGAD BABOY — By P.M. Junior



DICK TRACY



LOVEBIRDS — By Elizabeth Chionglo



JAMES BOND



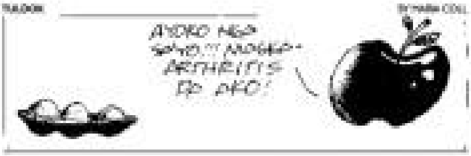
DIVINE COMEDY — By Steven Pabalinas



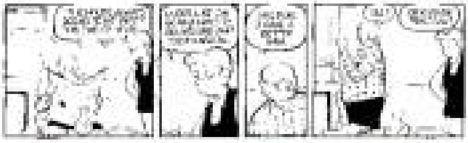
BABY BLUES — By Jerry Scott



TULDOK — By Mara Coll



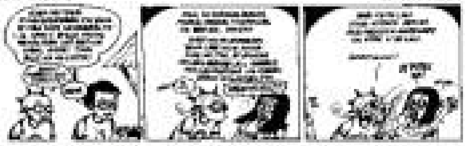
BEN — By Daniel Shelton



ATOMO AND WEBOY — By Lira Garcellano

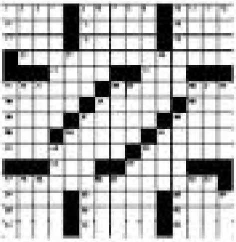


KIKO MACHINE — By Manix Abrera

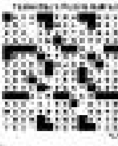


HOROSCOPE

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



Yesterday's Puzzle Solved



CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

2		4				3		
	3		4		1		5	
		7				1		
	5		2		9		7	3
				3				
	6	3	1	5	7	9	8	
		5				6		
		1				2		
			6	8	2			

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Answer to previous puzzle

‘Relaxed cosmopolitanism’ lifestyle





Limited edition



What Haiti teaches us

Don't look for moral lessons. Just help

ROOTS AND WINGS



Cathy Babao-Guballa

Preparedness

Relics of St. John Mary Vianney arrive for national congress of clergy

How kendo strengthens …

Do-it-yourself

How to store plates and glasses and avoid scratching





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ENTERTAINMENT

Seven Pinoys join Rotterdam film fest





Aussie 'Cats' eager to start work with Lea

ADELAIDE, AUSTRALIA—

Nine lives

Stand-out piece



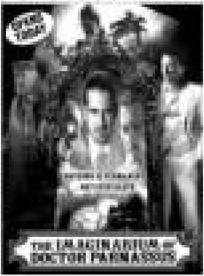








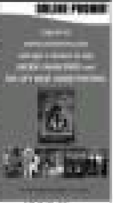
AMERICA'S BIGGEST STARS IN THE MOST-ANTICIPATED FILM FOR 2010





CINEMA





[illegible]





Suspicious timing

RUSHES





ENTERTAINMENT

Aljur-Kris: Love team or love scheme?

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Anne Carvajal



A reprieve for 'Showtime'

By Marinel R. Cruz

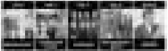
MOVIEWORLD



POWER PLANT



ARANETA CENTER
SHOP, DINE & WIN TICKETS!



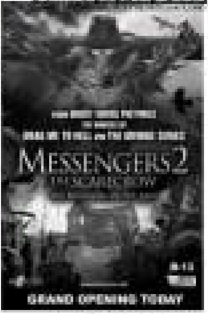




INMENT




OPENS JANUARY 27
THE BLIND SIDE

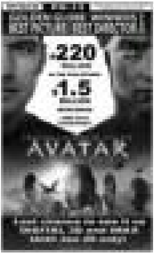

MESSENGERS 2
THE SCARECROW
GRAND OPENING TODAY

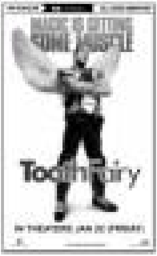

THE SPY NEXT DOOR
NOW PLAYING


DAYBREAKERS


NOW SHOWING
SHERLOCK HOLMES


OLD DOGS


AVATAR


Tooth Fairy